

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 /028 W

----- 122670

R 131224Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 274

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP PFOR CI

SUBJECT: REACTION TO BICENTENNIAL

REF: A) USINFO 062145Z B) USINFO 071938Z C) SANTIAGO 6507

D) SANTIAGO 6661 E) STATE 169682 F) SANTIAGO 6725

1. THE REFTELS DESCRIBE BOTH SIDES OF THE COIN: NUMEROUS WARM AND SINCERE EXPRESSIONS FROM VIRTUALLY ALL SECTORS OF CHILEAN SOCIETY, AMIDST EVIDENCE OF GOVERNMENT PIQUE AT USG RESTRICTIONS ON BILATERAL COOPERATION THAT BY HAPPENSTANCE CAME INTO EFFECT ON JUNE 30.

2. THE FAVORABLE MEDIA OUTPUT RECOUNTED IN REF A AND B IS MATCHED BY THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF MISSION MEMBERS. THE EMBASSY WAS SWAMPED WITH REQUESTS FROM SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, COMMUNITY GROUPS, ROTARY CLUBS, ETC. THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY FOR MATERIAL ABOUT THE UNITED STATES. MANY ASKED FOR AN AMERICAN SPEAKER. EMBASSY PERSONNEL ATTENDED THREE DOZEN OR SO OF THESE CEREMONIES DURING THE FOURTH OF JULY PERIOD.

3. REFERENCES C AND D DESCRIBE HOW SENIOR GOC OFFICIALS BOYCOTTED THE AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION, SUBSEQUENT EXAMPLES OF SOME OBVIOUS COOLING OF RELATIONSHIPS, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS, AND A SNIDE ARTICLE IN RIGHTIST "LA SEGUNDA." IN ADDITION, THE GOC-OWNED "EL CRONISTA" DID NOT PUBLISH A PREPARED SUPPLEMENT

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COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL.

4. IN RETROSPECT, THE COINCIDENCE THAT ASSISTANCE
RESTRAINTS BECAME LAW JUST BEFORE THE FOURTH MIGHT PROVE
IN THE LONG RUN TO HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO THE GOC: IT GAVE THE GOC
AN IMMEDIATE AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY SATISFYING WAY TO EXPRESS
ITS HURT REACTION -- IN THAT SENSE IT MAY HAVE HELPED TO
DRAW THE STING. WE WILL BE ALERT TO DETERMINE WHETHER
THIS IS IN FACT THE CASE.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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